

NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIES: LINKS TO INTERNATIONAL FRAMEWORKS AND EXPERIENCE GAINED FROM IMPLEMENTATION

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Background and Context

Article 6 of CBD calls for countries to:

Develop national strategies, plans or programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, or adapt, for this purpose, existing strategies, plans or programmes which shall reflect, *inter alia, the measures set out in the Convention relevant to the Contracting Party concerned*

- The first National Biodiversity Strategy for Ghana was prepared in 2002
- An associated Action Plan was not prepared except a list of intended actions .
- Degradation of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services had accelerated (Cost of environmental degradation had increased from 5% of GDP in 1999 to 10% by 2006.
- Cost of degradation of Biodiversity to the economy accounted for 6%of GDP
- Ghana was losing about USD 560million annually

- The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment Report of 2005 indicates that about 60% of ecosystem services are being degraded or used unsustainably
- Global Biodiversity Outlook Report (2010) show that the world's biodiversity continued to decline rapidly
- *Targets agreed by governments in 2002 had not been met (CBD, 2010)*
- Parties to CBD adopted the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Targets (CBD COP Decision X/2)

National Strategies and International Frameworks (Pre- 2011)

A number sectors had Action Plans specific to related Multilateral Environmental Agreement

- National Wetlands Management Strategies (*Ramsar Convention framework*)
- National Invasive Species Management Strategies (*IUCN framework*)
- Draft National Ballast Water Management Strategy (*Ballast water convention*)

Focus of Sectoral Plans

INTERNATIONAL
FRAMEWORKS

CONSERVATION
STRATEGIES

CITIES

RAMSAR

CMS

IPGRFA

WHC

CBD

SPECIES BASED CONSERVATION
STRATEGIES

ECOSYSTEM-BASED
CONSERVATION STRATEGIES

CITIES

RAMSAR

CMS

IPGRFA

WHC

CBD

SPECIES BASED CONSERVATION
STRATEGIES

ECOSYSTEM-BASED
CONSERVATION STRATEGIES

Features of Related Action Plans

- Non-integrated with considerable duplication and fragmented investments targets
- Focused on Conservation projects for remarkable Biodiversity in protected areas/reserves
- Not holistic in addressing underlying causes of biodiversity loss
- Did not enhance strong synergy between programmes objectives and efficiency in investment outputs

Global Biodiversity Strategy 2011 -2020

- Links key objectives of biodiversity related MEAs to 5 broad strategic goals and 20 Aichi targets
- Provides the framework for integration of biodiversity issues into holistic public policy, focusing on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity for the benefit of the wider population.
- Encourages synergy in the approaches for addressing direct pressures of economic activities, as well as indirect factors of biodiversity loss

Integrating Global Biodiversity Strategy (2011 -2020) into National Policies

Multilateral Environmental Agreements (biodiversity-related)



5 Strategic Goals and 20 Targets

Goal A:
Address underlying causes of biodiversity loss

Goal B: Reduce direct pressures on Biodiversity and encourage sustainable use

Goal C:
Improve the Status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity

Goal D:
Increase the benefit to all from biodiversity

Goal E:
Strengthen implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management, Capacity building

ALIGN TARGETS TO NATIONAL PRIORITIES
(specified in existing national plans)

NBSAPs

Features of Ghana's NBSAP

Four strategic objectives (components)

- Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity into all sectors of government and society programmes;
- improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity;
- enhance the benefits of biodiversity to all sectors of the economy;
- enhance implementation of the national biodiversity action plan through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity-building.

- The four strategic objectives (and respective priority national strategies) are to be achieved over 25 years, within a three-phase programme (2016-2020, 2021-2030, 2030-2040).
- The short-term programme comprise 20 separate action plans) to be implemented up to 2020 has activities that fit into the ongoing national development agenda.

Integrating International Targets to National Policy-Enabling Factors

- Established/identified coordinating mechanisms with clear mandate for the NBSAP process;
- Adopted an inclusive and participatory process;
- Working Principle - ‘not to reinvent the wheel’; integrated priorities in existing biodiversity related action plans, as much as necessary, and aligned them to Aichi targets;
- Adoption of NBSAP as an overarching policy for integrating biodiversity issues into national development agenda (political process).
- Mainstream NBSAP into strategic national short –term to medium-term development plan (involvement of NDPC in the entire process)

Implementation

- Implementation of priority actions in some sectors are ongoing (*Notwithstanding the fact that cabinet is yet to adopt the NABSAP*)
- Projected budget required for implementation of short-term measures (2017-2020) is USD 534.5million
- Inter-sectoral coordination of implementation is generally weak (*partly due to delay in formal adoption*)

- Significant inter-sectoral coordination and synergy achieved for some actions for the Forest, wildlife, agriculture and environment sectors involving the use of GEF-6 Star allocations
- Public-Private Partnership arrangements have helped to reduce the funding gap, particularly, in the area of restoration of degraded forest landscape.



Challenges

- Political transitions have served to delay the preparation and adoption of the NBSAP in Ghana and in a few other countries (especially, where coordination of the process rests on a Ministry rather than a state department with adequate mandate).
- Diffusion of conservation agriculture technology is not catching pace with degradation of agriculture landscapes (*traditional farming systems accommodated and promoted conservation agriculture*).
- Huge funding gap limits capacity to achieve short-term targets.

Lessons Learned

- Participatory and inclusive approaches enables appropriate linkages of NBSAPs with international strategic frameworks to be achieve in an integrated way.
- Political adoption of NBSAP is an important factor for spinning off stronger collaboration and synergy.
- Global co-funding and Multi-donor budgetary support arrangements can provide strong impetus for forging national collaboration, integration and synergy between sectors.
- An enabling policy environment can help in leveraging private sector funding to support implementation of NBSAPs



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